

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 P.M. on January 25, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Bill Otto- excused  
Representative Deena Horst- excused  
Representative Dick Kelsey- excused  
Representative Eber Phelps- excused  
Representative Valdenia Winn- excused

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor  
Haley DaVee, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Sheila Frahm, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees  
Dale Hahs, Custom Energy  
Vicky Smith, President, Neosho County Community College  
Jim Ploger, KCC Energy Office  
Charles Benjamin, Sierra Club

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan called the meeting to order and asked for any bill introductions from the committee and audience. Representative Tim Owens requested a bill that will use tuition incentives to encourage college students to remain in the state of Kansas after their graduation.

Representative Kuether moved that the bill be introduced. Representative Sharp seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan asked to request a bill be introduced that would deal with funding the infrastructure needs of the state's higher education institutions.

Representative Krehbiel moved that the bill be introduced. Representative Carlin seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Representative Johnson provided the committee with information relative to community college financing. (Attachment 1) He requested that an interim committee be established to look at the financing of community colleges to see if we can spread the costs more evenly over all counties based on population or some other criteria.

Chairman Sloan opened the hearing on:

**HB 2602 - Energy conservation project financing for technical and community colleges.**

Chairman Sloan recognized the written testimony submitted by Sheila Frahm, Kansas Association of Community College Trustees. (Attachment 2)

Chairman Sloan welcomed Dale Hahs, Custom Energy, to testify as a proponent of **HB 2602**. He suggested that the Facility Conservation Improvement Program has had significant success. This program has given schools the ability to significantly improve campus mechanical and electrical infrastructures while enhancing the working and learning environments and reducing deferred maintenance lists. He believed that **HB 2602**

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the House Higher Education Committee at 3:30 P.M. on January 25, 2006 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

is necessary to correct the language oversight that created a conflict between the Performance Contract Enabling Legislation and other Community College Procurement guidelines. (Attachment 3)

Chairman Sloan recognized Vicky Smith, President of Neosho County Community College, to testify as a proponent. Smith pointed to the success of Neosho County Community College in using the Facilities Conservation Improvement Program. She noted that they would have attempted to do more if they could have extended the lease purchase beyond 10 years. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Sloan welcomed Jim Ploger, Kansas Corporation Commission Energy Office, to the committee to testify as a proponent of **HB 2602**. He noted that the bill makes minor changes to current law but will have numerous positive effects. (Attachment 5) He also provided the committee with a brochure containing information about what the Facility Conservation Improvement Program does for the state.

The Chairman called Charles Benjamin, Sierra Club, to testify as a proponent of **HB 2602**. Benjamin pointed out that the Sierra Club strongly supports public policies that encourage energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy. As such, they are strong supporters of this legislation. (Attachment 6)

Chairman Sloan opened the floor for questions and Representative Storm asked a question regarding what facilities used similar programs. Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor, noted that state agencies use a similar program with 20 year lease purchases.

Chairman Sloan closed the hearing on **HB 2602** and turned the committee's attention to **HB 2604 - Midwestern high education commission.**

Art Griggs, Office of the Revisor, explained an amendment requested by Representative Horst. The amendment would clarify that a person serving on the executive committee may serve up to an additional two year term. (Attachment 7)

Representative Sharp moved to adopt the balloon. Representative Pottorf seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Representative Sharp moved that the committee pass **HB 2604** favorably as amended. Representative Hill seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan asked Representative Sharp to carry the bill.

Chairman Sloan turned the committee's attention to **HB 2602- Energy conservation project financing for technical and community colleges.**

Representative Storm moved to pass **HB 2602** favorably and put it on the consent calender. Representative Pottorf seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

Chairman Sloan adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2006 at 3:30 p.m. in Rm. 231-N.